

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 017865

EXDIS TOVIP 15 FOR HARTMAN FROM LOWENSTEIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, MILI

SUBJECT: FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING POLICY

1. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED AT LUNCH WITH RUSH THAT THEY WILL WANT TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR TESTING POLICIES DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. PROPOSAL FOR COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN IN THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW ON JANUARY 23 WILL DIRECTLY IMPACT ON FRANCE AS ALLIED COUNTRY CONDUCTING ITS OWN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST PROGRAM. (PURSUANT TO PAST AUTHORIZATION THE UK MAY CONDUCT ONE MORE UNDERGROUND TEST OF A BRITISH DEVICE AT THE NEVADA TEST SITE.) GISCARD REITERATED IN RECENT INTERVIEW WITH AGRONSKY THAT FRANCE PLANS TO IMPROVE
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ITS STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCE ON THE BASIS OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. CONTINUING FRENCH TESTING WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DEVELOP MULTIPLE WARHEADS (MRV), TRIGGERS FOR WARHEADS, AND OTHER WARHEAD IMPROVEMENTS. AS LONG AS NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY IS NOT AVAILABLE TO FRANCE FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE THEY WILL CONSIDER SUCH TESTING TO BE AN IMPERATIVE OF THEIR OWN NATIONAL DEFENSE EFFORT.

FRENCH CONDUCTED SEVERAL UNDERGROUND TESTS AT THEIR
PACIFIC TEST CENTER LAST YEAR AND THE DIRECTOR, ADMIRAL

DE CASTELBAJAC, IN PRESS CONFERENCE AT TAHITI LAST
WEEK, DISCUSSED FUTURE MANNING OF TEST CENTER WITHOUT
REVEALING ANYTHING ABOUT TEST PROGRAM ITSELF.

2. FOREGOING PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND ON THIS TOPIC.

VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETING AGENDA, TEST FACILITIES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, TOVIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: EJBEIGEL:MS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770028-1097
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770115/aaaaancf.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 97db38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING POLICY
TAGS: MILI, FR, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
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Type: TE
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